

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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Chief Deputy



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Fifth District

July 11, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

SUBJECT: 2007 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo) AWARDS

Good News! I am pleased to inform you that the National Association of Counties (NACo) has announced their choice for the 2007 Achievement Awards, which includes five of our Department's projects. The awards recognize innovative programs which contribute to and enhance county government in the United States. This award program is part of NACo's *New County, USA Campaign* which began in 1970 to modernize and streamline county government and to increase services to its citizens.

Our Department submitted three of the five projects and received the attached awards for each of them. The other two projects are collaborative with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Sheriff's Department, respectively. As such, DMH and the Sheriff submitted the projects for consideration and won the attached NACo awards, as well. NACo chose the following DPSS-related projects for the award:

- LA County Countywide Food Stamp Outreach Campaign - DPSS developed a collaborative campaign to increase Food Stamp (FS) utilization throughout Los Angeles County and break the barriers that cause food insecurity and hunger in families and individuals. DPSS has partnered with other county departments and outside agencies to strategize and implement this outreach program using all resources that are available. The main strategy used in this project is to place eligibility workers in non-traditional sites to interview and take FS applications.
- GAIN Sanction Home Visit Outreach Project (GSHVO) - The GSHVO entails Home Visit Specialized GAIN Services Workers contacting participants who are not in compliance with the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work program, to avoid imposition of a sanction or cure a sanction that is already in place through phone calls, letters, and home calls. Over 52,000 participants (75% of those contacted) have resolved their non-compliance, since the implementation of the project in November 2005.

- Department of Public Social Services Total Accountability Total Success (DPSSTATS) - DPSSTATS is a new innovative process that uses performance measurement data within a social services environment to drive decisions, promote accountability, and to focus the Department's time and resources on mission-critical activities.
- Homeless CalWORKs Families Project – This project requires collaborative efforts among the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Community Development Commission, and DPSS to move homeless CalWORKs families into emergency shelters, then to transitional housing, and finally into permanent housing during a period of approximately six months.
- Sheriff/DPSS Jail In Reach Project - The DPSS/Sheriff Homeless Release Pilot Project was developed and implemented through collaboration between DPSS and the Sheriff's Department to prevent and reduce homelessness in the County. DPSS intake eligibility staff go to Men's Central Jail and the Century Regional Detention Facility to process application referrals from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's in-house Community Transition Unit (CTU) for homeless inmates who are potentially eligible for General Relief, Food Stamps, and/or CalWORKs. Upon release, Century Regional Detention Facility inmates are issued bus tokens (by the Sheriff's Department) to travel to the DPSS South Central District, while Men's Central Jail inmates are issued benefits through the Cashier Operation located at the jail.

The Achievement Award Winners from 2007 will be collectively recognized at the NACo's Tenth Annual Awards Ceremony during NACo's 72nd Annual Conference on July 15, 2007, in Richmond Virginia.

Please advise me if you have any questions or need additional information.

PLB:ml

Attachments

- c. Chief Executive Officer
Deputy, Chief Executive Officer
Director, Department of Mental Health
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Sheriff, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

2007 Achievement Award Winner

This Award is Presented to

Los Angeles County, CA

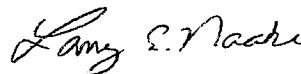
for
its program

LA County Countywide Food Stamp Outreach Campaign

in recognition of an effective and innovative program
which contributes to and enhances county government
in the United States.



Colleen Landkamer, President



Larry E. Naake, Executive Director



National Association of Counties

The Voice of America's Counties

National Association of Counties

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Los Angeles County, CA

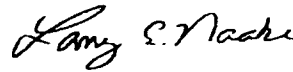
for
its program

GAIN Sanction Home Visit Outreach Project

in recognition of an effective and innovative program
which contributes to and enhances county government
in the United States.



Colleen Landkamer, President



Larry E. Naake, Executive Director

NACO National Association of Counties
The Voice of America's Counties

National Association of Counties

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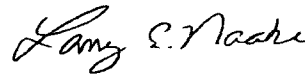
for
its program

Department of Public Social Services Total Accountability Total

in recognition of an effective and innovative program
which contributes to and enhances county government
in the United States.



Colleen Landkamer, President



Larry E. Naake, Executive Director

National Association of Counties

2007 Achievement Award Winner

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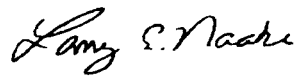
for
its program

Homeless CalWorks Families Project - Expansion Program

in recognition of an effective and innovative program
which contributes to and enhances county government
in the United States.



Colleen Lundakamer, President



Larry E. Naake, Executive Director

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The Voice of America's Counties

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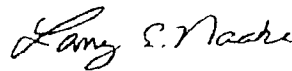
for
its program

Sheriff/DPSS Jail In Reach Project

in recognition of an effective and innovative program
which contributes to and enhances county government
in the United States.



David Landkammer, President



Larry E. Naake, Executive Director

NACO National Association of Counties

The Voice of America's Counties